



Ayuittuq
National Park
parksCanada.gc.ca

Visitor Information Package

Photo: Blackfeather - Axel Nernheim

Ayuittuq

To arrive prepared, to identify backcountry challenges, and to plan an enriching Arctic experience, please thoroughly read this package.



Parks Canada
Parcs Canada

Canada

For More Information

Contact our Park Offices in Pangnirtung or Qikiqtarjuaq, or visit our website.

Pangnirtung Office

Phone: (867) 473-2500

Fax: (867) 473-8612

nunavut.info@pc.gc.ca

Hours of Operation

September-June

Monday to Friday 8:30am-12 noon, 1pm-5pm

July-August

Monday-Sunday 8:30am-12 noon, 1pm-5pm

Qikiqtarjuaq Office

Phone: (867) 927-8834

Fax: (867) 927-8454

nunavut.info@pc.gc.ca

Hours of Operation

Year Round

Monday to Friday 8:30am-12 noon, 1pm-5pm

parkscanada.gc.ca/auyuittuq



Related Websites

Additional Resources: parkscanada.gc.ca/auyuittuq

Nunavut Tourism: www.nunavuttourism.com

Mirnguiqsirviit – Nunavut Territorial Parks: www.nunavutparks.com

Weather Conditions –

Pangnirtung: www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/city/pages/nu-7_metric_e.html

Qikiqtarjuaq: www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/city/pages/nu-5_metric_e.html

Transport Canada: www.tc.gc.ca/

Table of Contents

In Preparation for Your Trip	3
Welcome	4
Maps and Route Finding	5-6
How to Get Here	6
Community Information	7-8
Activities	9-11
Prohibited Activities	11
Registration and De-Registration	11
Tour Companies	12
Arctic Seasons	13
Climate and Extreme Weather	13
River Crossings and Safety	14
Terrain Hazards	15
Emergency Shelters	16
Polar Bears and Other Wildlife	17
Search and Rescue	18
Minimizing Risk	19
Travelling with Dangerous Goods	20
Environmental Conservation Practices	20
Fees	21
Park Regulations	21



In Preparation for Your Trip

Pre-Trip

Before booking my travel I have:

- contacted Parks Canada in Pangnirtung or Qikiqtarjuaq
- allowed sufficient time prior to entering the park to attend a mandatory orientation and registration session
- received the Auyuittuq National Park Visitor Information Package
- received the Safety in Polar Bear Country brochure

For hiking or skiing I have:

- provided Parks Canada with a detailed itinerary of my planned trip including any side trips
- ensured my skills and experience are equal to the needs of the trip
- contacted local outfitters to arrange for transport into the park (optional but recommended)

For mountaineering or glacier travel I have:

- provided Parks Canada with a detailed route description of my planned trip
- ensured that my skills and experience are equal to the needs of the trip

To setup a base camp or caches (a permit is needed in advance) I have:

- provided Parks Canada with details of my planned trip including base camp operations and cache content and location.
- requested for permission from Parks Canada to create a base camp and/or cache and received approval

I have booked a time for my registration and orientation.

Date: _____

Time: _____

Location: _____

Post-Trip

After leaving the park I have:

- contacted Parks Canada to de-register
- completed the Nunavut Visitor Survey

Please Note: Permits for operating a business (guiding, outfitting), filming and commercial photography, research, landing an aircraft, establishing a cache or base camp, or for transporting a firearm through the park must be acquired through the Parks Canada office well in advance (some permits may take 90 days or more to be issued).

Welcome

Auyuittuq, Inuktitut for “Land that Never Melts”, is a dynamic landscape with craggy mountains, sheer granite cliffs, and glaciers that define Akshayuk Pass. Dramatic melt water streams and rivers thunder toward the fiords as intrepid hikers make their way through the pass.

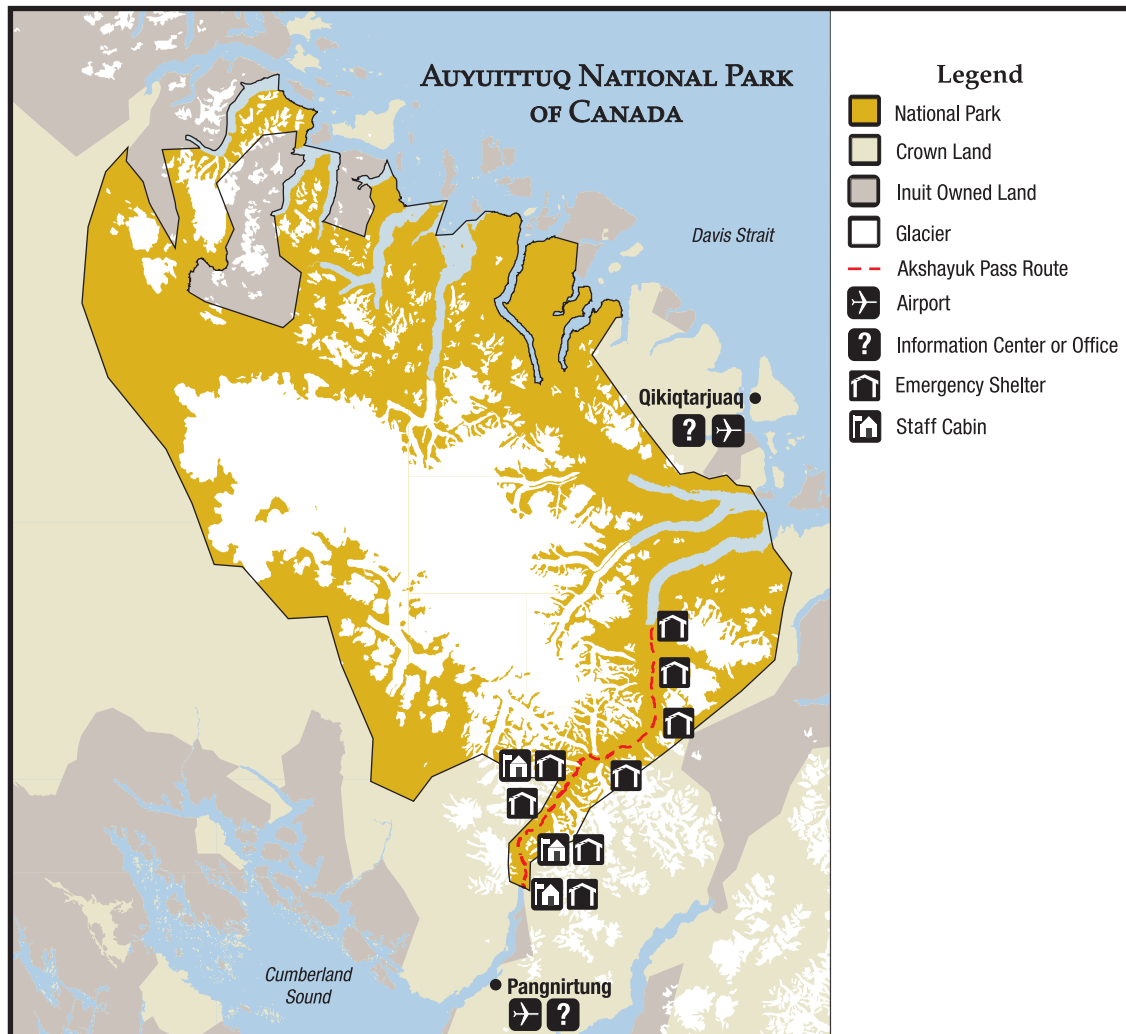
Most travelers here expect silence and solitude during their Arctic trek. In Auyuittuq, you will be struck by a clash of expectations. Rock and glaciers along the pass channel the whoosh of the wind. Water gushing against stones, rock on rock clatter, gravel and skree crunching add to the percussion. The occasional caw of a circling raven or the yip of a fox are the sounds of surprise.

Take the time on your trip to meet Inuit in the communities; see carvers, print makers and weavers in action. Taste the Arctic char from the fiords. Stay for a community event and take part in local games. Follow in the footsteps of family who may have lived and worked here in decades past.

The Arctic is an unpredictable place, with a variety surprises and challenges. It requires both your preparation and your patience, an attitude Inuit have lived by for centuries as they thrive in this environment. If you bring that respect and patience to your own adventure, your Arctic sojourn will be one that leaves you thrilled and smiling years hence.



Map of Auyuittuq National Park



Topographic Maps

Detailed maps of the Akshayuk Pass are available at the park office and from the manufacturer (www.chrismar.com).

Please Note: flooding occurred in 2008 that washed out the Windy Lake Bridge as shown on the Chrismar map. This only affects which side of the river to hike on and doesn't change the difficulty of your trip.

If you plan to travel in areas other than the Akshayuk Pass, you will need to purchase the appropriate maps before arriving in Nunavut (http://maps.nrcan.gc.ca/distribution_e.php).

The appropriate 1:250,000 maps for the Auyuittuq region are: 26-I, 27-A, 26-O, 26-P, 26-J. Please contact the park office for a map overlay of the corresponding 1:50,000 maps that are more suited to navigation.

Route Finding and Orientation

Most of the hikes and ski routes you will choose follow unmistakable natural landmarks such as rivers and valleys. In this tree-less landscape you can easily identify these landmarks during your trip as well as find them on your maps. Generally, navigation and route finding is easy.

If you are planning an overnight or weekend hike to the Arctic Circle from Pangnirtung please travel on the east side of the Weasel River. For all other plans we recommend that you hike on the west side of the river between Overlord and Glacier Lake, and on the east side between Glacier Lake and North Pangnirtung Fiord.

Auyuittuq lies within the area of compass unreliability. GPS receivers are your best bet for navigation. Keep in mind that you should keep batteries warm and even the best unit can fail. Bring a backup unit, extra batteries and the right maps. The Arctic weather can keep you on your toes; there may be times you are required to navigate in white out conditions at any time of year.

How to Get Here

Air Access to Nunavut

First Air and Canadian North offer scheduled flights to Pangnirtung and Qikiqtarjuaq via Iqaluit from Montreal, Ottawa and Yellowknife. Air Canada will begin offering flights from Ottawa and Montreal to Iqaluit in 2010.

Please Note: If you are shipping supplies from an international location, please allow 4-6 weeks for these items to clear customs on top of the normal shipping time.

First Air Ltd.
1-800-267-1247
www.firstair.ca

Canadian North
1-800-661-1505
www.cdn-north.com

Air Canada
1-888-247-2262
www.aircanada.com

**Weather conditions in the north may dictate your travel schedule.
Be flexible enough to allow for lengthy delays in your plans.**



Community Information

Local Outfitters

Travel to and from Auyuittuq, from Pangnirtung or Qikiqtarjuaq, can be arranged with licensed outfitters. Outfitters, who typically provide transportation only, will take you to and from the park by boat, snowmobile or dog team, depending on the season and your request. Contact the Angmarlik Centre if travelling to or from Pangnirtung, and contact your outfitter directly if travelling to or from Qikiqtarjuaq. They can provide you with availability and current rates.

Please Note: Outfitters must have a current National Parks Business Licence to transport visitors to the park. Ensure your outfitter has a current licence before hiring them. This package was produced in advance of the annual licensing and permitting cycle.

Peter's Expediting and Outfitting

Pangnirtung
Phone: (867) 473-4060
peterkilabuk2005@qiniq.com

Qumuatuq Tours & Outfitting

Pangnirtung
Phone: (867) 473-4065
ktoursoutfitting@yahoo.ca

Nunavut Experience Outfitting

Qikiqtarjuaq
Phone: (867) 927-8518
billy_arnaquq@qiniq.com

Alivaktuk Outfitting

Pangnirtung
Phone: (867) 473-8721

Jaco Qaqasiq Outfitting

Pangnirtung
Phone: (867) 473-8055

True North Outfitting Services

Qikiqtarjuaq
Phone: (867) 927 8812 or 8832
kuniliusie@yahoo.ca

Community Visitor Information

Pangnirtung

Angmarlik Interpretive Centre
Phone: (867) 473-8737
Fax: (867) 473-8685
angmarlikcentre@qiniq.com

Qikiqtarjuaq

Hamlet Office
Phone: (867) 927-8832
Fax: (867) 927-8120
harrya@nunanet.com

Local Stores

Northern Store

Pangnirtung: (867)473-8935
Qikiqtarjuaq: (867)927-8917

Arctic Inuit Co-Op Store

Pangnirtung: (867)473-8936
Qikiqtarjuaq: (867) 927-8061

Accommodations

Pangnirtung

Auyiittuq Lodge

Offers full lodging as well as use of showers and washrooms.

Phone: (867) 473-8955 or 8905

Fax: (867) 473-8611

panglodge@qiniq.com

Homestays

Contact the Angmarlik Interpretive Centre

Phone: (867) 473-8737

Fax: (867) 473-8685

angmarlikcentre@qiniq.com

Kilabuk Lodge

Phone: (867) 473-8229

Pisuktinu Tungavik Territorial Campground

Minimal services.

Contact Angmarlik Interpretive Centre for more information.

Qikiqtarjuaq

Siku Hotel

Phone: (867) 927-8111

Fax: (867) 927-8112

Tulugak Co-op Hotel

Toll Free: 1-888-866-6784

Phone: (867) 927-8061

Fax: (867) 927-8124

Leelie Homestay and Lodge

Toll Free: 1-866-341-4441

Phone: (867) 927-8002

Fax: (867) 927-8003

leelie@qiniq.com

www.leelieenterprises.ca

Campground

Minimal services



Activities

Akshayuk Pass is the park's most popular skiing and hiking destination. It is a 97 km natural corridor between mountains and ice that will immerse you in the soul of the land. There are eight emergency shelters spaced about one day's travel apart. You won't find any campgrounds or services in the park except for outhouses beside the shelters. Despite there being no defined trail to follow, the pass follows a glacial valley and unmistakable landmarks. From Overlord, to Odin, to Thor, to Asgard, it will be more than the landscape that you will remember.

Hiking

While there are no designated trails in Auyuittuq, the hiking opportunities are endless. Akshayuk Pass is the park's prime summer hiking destination.

A traverse through the pass will usually take 7-10 days. Always plan an extra day for travel in the park and a couple of extra days in the communities, particularly as weather can affect your plans at any time of year.

Day or Weekend Trips

If you only have a couple of days to see Auyuittuq, there are many possibilities. How about a boat tour from Qikiqtarjuaq for a peek at glaciers and mountains? Maybe a snowmobile or hiking trip to the Arctic Circle from Pangnirtung? Hiking, skiing and outfitter-guided boat or snowmobile tours are options from both communities.

Contact our office or an outfitter directly to discuss what trip would be best for you.



Glacier Travel

Whether you stop by Crater Lake on the way to the Arctic Circle or catch a glimpse of the endless "ice highways" on your flight between Pangnirtung and Qikiqtarjuaq, Auyuittuq's glaciers are sure to amaze. Since much of the park is glaciated, glaciers are bound to occupy your views throughout your trip.

Low temperatures combined with low annual snowfall means that glacial movement is very slow. Crevasses and icefalls are reduced compared to glaciers in more southerly regions of North America. However, glaciers must still be treated with respect as they can be dangerous. We ask that you avoid walking on them if you are not experienced. Groups must travel roped up, and must have a thorough knowledge of the techniques of safe glacier travel, including crevasse rescue.

Skiing



There is nothing like the serene silence of Auyuittuq in the winter. Leaving behind the rockfalls and rushing waters of summer, skiing offers unparalleled freedom of movement to explore and experience.

Ski travel in Akshayuk Pass, especially along the Weasel River, is best accomplished either along the hiking trail or on the river ice with skins and metal edges or with the aid of crampons or attachable sole cleats.

If you think of ski mountaineering as an alpine adventure involving skiing, exploration and climbing, our park offers limitless possibilities. The rock is rough granite, the ice is steep and solid and many peaks have never been climbed.

Although your skis can take you to many peaks and glaciers, most actual ascents will require technical climbing skills and equipment.

Rock Climbing & Mountaineering

Auyuittuq's glaciers, rock cliffs and mountains provide world-class opportunities for rock climbing, mountaineering and ski mountaineering in an arctic environment. Potentially harsh conditions and a lack of local rescue services make mountaineering in this park inadvisable for all but the most experienced of climbers. Are you prepared for self-rescue? Technical rescue equipment and personnel have to be brought in from outside of Nunavut.

Please contact the Park Office well in advance of your trip to secure approval for caches and base camps.



Inuit Cultural Activities

You may encounter beneficiaries of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) while travelling in Auyuittuq. We would like to remind you to respect Inuit subsistence hunting, fishing and trapping rights and refrain from interfering with their activities. Beneficiaries of the NLCA may travel through the park by motorized vehicle for the purposes of harvesting. If they are transporting a visitor to the park for commercial gain they require a license. All visitors need to be registered.

Prohibited Activities

Certain activities are not permitted under Canada National Parks Act Regulations. These include:

- Access by motorized vehicles*
- Long-drop Rappelling
- Paragliding
- BASE Jumping
- Parachuting
- Parasailing

* Licensed guides and outfitters can transport visitors from Pangnirtung to Overlord by boat and to the Arctic Circle by snow machine in the winter/spring. From Qikiqtarjuaq, outfitters can transport visitors to the head of North Pangnirtung fiord by boat and by snow machine on the sea ice in the spring.

Registration and De-Registration

For visitor safety, it is mandatory to register all trips into the park prior to entering and to de-register once done. **If you plan on travelling on Inuit-owned land contact the Qikiqtani Inuit Association at 1-800-667-2742 for permission.** During the registration and orientation we can point out areas of interest along your route. This information helps make your trip safe and enjoyable. We also provide information on the hazards present in the park, and the risks associated with the activities you plan to undertake. You will be briefed on current route conditions, weather, water levels, area closures, park regulations, polar bear sightings and much more.

To register your trip:

- Make a reservation for your orientation at the Parks Canada office in Pangnirtung or Qikiqtarjuaq at least 48 hours in advance by phone or e-mail.
- Orientations are conducted between 8:30am and 4pm Monday to Friday. Please consider this when making your travel and trip plans, and allow enough time for your orientation. This can take 60-90 minutes depending on what type of trip you are going on.

To de-register your trip:

- Within 48 hours of leaving the park, visit the Parks Canada office in Pangnirtung or Qikiqtarjuaq to complete your deregistration form. If you are unable to visit, please phone the park office.
- Your de-registration date is the day that you anticipate exiting the park. It is essential that your planned de-registration date be as accurate as possible. **Failing to de-register within 48 hours of this date will initiate a search response by park staff.**

What information will you need to provide when you arrive?

- The name, address and phone number of each group member and an emergency contact for each member;
- A de-registration date (date you plan to exit the park);
- The name(s) of the local outfitter(s) that you plan to use;
- Your flight information;
- A list of your equipment (brand, number, color, etc), your satellite phone number (if applicable);
- The type of activities you will undertake; and,
- Your detailed in-park trip plans.

Tour Companies

If you prefer to travel in a guided group, please contact one of the tour companies below. Please check that the company you are planning to travel with is currently licensed to operate in the park before hiring them.

This package was produced in advance of the annual licensing and permitting cycle.

Karavaniers du Monde

Montreal, Quebec
Toll Free: 1-877-477-0799
Phone: (514) 281-0799
Fax: (514) 281-5664
expeditions@karavaniers.com
www.karavaniers.com

Black Feather Wilderness Adventure Company

Parry Sound, ON
Toll Free: 1-888-849-7668
Fax: (705) 746-7048
info@wildernessadventure.com
www.blackfeather.com

Whitney and Smith Legendary Expeditions Inc. (Explorers' Corner)

Canmore, AB
Toll-free: 1-800-713-6660
Fax: (403) 678-5176
info@legendaryex.com
www.legendaryex.com

Northwinds Arctic Adventure

Iqaluit, NU
Phone : (867) 979-0551
Fax : (867) 979-0573
north@northwinds-arctic.com
www.northwinds-arctic.com

Grand Nord / Grand Large (GNGL)

Paris, France
Phone: 40 46 05 14
Fax: 43 26 73 20
www.gngl.com

Odyssée Nunavut

Iqaluit, NU
Téléphone: (867) 979-3808
odyssee@nunafranc.ca
www.odyseenunavut.com

Cruise North Expeditions Inc

Toronto, ON
Toll Free: 1 866 CNE 3220
Phone: (416) 789-3752
Fax: (416) 955 9869
info@cruisenorthexpeditions.com
www.cruisenorthexpeditions.com

Quark Expeditions

Norwalk, CT
Toll Free: 1-866-961-2961
Phone: (203) 803-2888
Fax: (203) 857-0427
enquiry@quarkexpeditions.com
www.quarkexpeditions.com



Arctic Seasons and Your Trip

The following are approximate dates for the methods of accessing the park. Please check in advance with the park office in Pangnirtung for this year's likeliest scenario.

March/April/early May (spring)	Fiords are frozen; travel by snowmachine, dog team or by skiing*. The rivers often break up by mid-May, making skiing difficult.
June/July (break up)	Sea-ice breaks up by early June in Pangnirtung and by mid-July in Qikiqtarjuaq. Travel to the park is not possible with an outfitter – only on foot from Pangnirtung*.
Late July/August/September (summer)	The fiords are normally ice-free. Travel with an outfitter by boat.
October – February (winter)	Travel to Auyuittuq National Park is not advisable at this time. Cold temperatures, near-constant darkness and access difficulties in early winter make winter travel unpleasant, dangerous and, often, impossible.

** It is physically possible to reach the park on foot or by ski to or from the communities at any time of year. This will add many kilometres to your trip. We recommend that an outfitter be hired to transport your group between Qikiqtarjuaq and the head of North Pangnirtung Fiord, in particular, to **minimize your risk of encountering polar bears**.*

Climate and Extreme Weather

The polar marine climate means long, cold winters and short, cool summers, with sub-freezing temperatures year-round at higher elevations.

The Penny Ice Cap, steep mountain slopes and the linear valley of the Akshayuk Pass create conditions for steady winds. You are likely to experience blowing sand in the summer and possible whiteouts in the winter/spring.

The park receives very little precipitation but late summer is the wettest time of year. Weather can change suddenly and without warning. **Be prepared for snow anytime, anywhere in Auyuittuq!** By mid-August new snow is common in the pass and above 2,000 feet it is permanent.

Hypothermia

Hypothermia is a life-threatening condition. People with hypothermia can no longer keep themselves warm and cannot re-warm themselves without assistance. Know the signs and symptoms of hypothermia, know how to treat it and take precautions to prevent its onset.

River Crossings

In summer the greatest hazard you will face is stream and river crossings. Streams and rivers in Auyuittuq are mostly glacial fed, so water volume and velocity change throughout the day, and from day to day. This makes crossing them unpredictable, susceptible to rapid change and challenging to assess. Ideal crossing points change regularly and you and your group will need to assess and find suitable places to cross. When the sun is at its strongest, the glacial melt increases and so does the amount of water in the rivers and streams.

Emergency cache barrels are found near major river crossings in case you lose essential gear while crossing rivers and need this assistance to exit the park. Locations and contents of cache barrels will be covered in your orientation.



Here are some tips to help you assess rivers and streams and make a crossing safer:

- Be cautious along the river banks, they may be unstable and could collapse.
- Unfasten the waist and chest straps on your pack when crossing, so you can remove it quickly if necessary.
- Cross major rivers and streams early in the day, as early as 2am – 7am.
- Wait until the water level is lower if you doubt your ability to ford a stream or river. This could mean hours or days!
- During and after rainfall watch for deep fast river flow. Be prepared to wait this out!
- Sections on flat ground with several branches tend to be shallower.
- Use a walking stick or ski pole to test water depth and to help with balance while crossing.
- Test cross the river first without your pack.
- Link arms to support one another, with the strongest member upstream creating an eddy, so that weaker group members can use it downstream.
- Neoprene boots with gripping soles will protect your feet from the cold water and tumbling rocks and will allow you to keep your boots and socks dry.

River crossings are the most significant risk visitors face in Auyuittuq National Park

All rivers and streams are dangerous.

Some streams may remain uncrossable for some members of your group.

Be prepared to change your route or turn back.

Terrain Hazards

Rockfall

Bare, freshly broken rock is a sign of active rockfall; these areas may extend well out from the rock walls and cliffs. In or around steep terrain, choose routes carefully, watch and listen for falling rock and avoid stopping for long breaks in potentially active or unprotected areas. Be particularly careful when it is raining and during periods of freeze-melt temperatures as these conditions loosen rock and increase rockfall. Choose campsites in protected areas, away from steep terrain.

Glaciers

Parties should only cross glaciers with experienced leaders and use proper equipment. Parties should travel roped up and individuals should be capable of undertaking crevasse rescue.

Avalanches

If there is snow and you will be travelling across or near slopes of more than 25° angle, you need to consider the possibility of avalanches. You should be trained and experienced in assessing avalanche hazards, route-finding skills and self-rescue techniques if you plan to travel in avalanche areas. All members should carry an avalanche transceiver, shovel and probe.

Winds

Wind can be localized. The head of Pangnirtung fiord can be calm while high winds are blowing in Pangnirtung. When this happens, outfitters will not go out in their boats. Winds of 15-20 km/hour are common year-round, they tend to be stronger (30-40km/hour) from late summer to early winter, with extremes to 100 km/hour.

Winds in Akshayuk Pass have reached 175 km/hour.



- Wind can blow your tent away or destroy it. We recommend using a 4-season tent and protecting it with a snow or rock wall. Anchor it with rocks, but check that they aren't a part of an archaeological site. Please replace rocks where you found them, when you leave.
- Wind can make travel impossible. Your schedule should be flexible enough to accommodate a few stormy days. Delays of one to five days are typical.
- Ensure your stove works well in high winds. We recommend at least 2 stoves per group.

Water Quality

Although there have not been any reported cases of giardia, we advise you to fine filter (<0.5microns), treat (iodine or chlorine in warm water), or boil your drinking water. To prevent the spread of diseases, human waste should be disposed of in a responsible manner; this will be covered during your orientation.

Tides & Ice Break Up

Outfitters prefer to travel on the incoming or high tide. Check with your outfitter for the best times for travel to/from the park. Due to the large tides experienced in the Pangnirtung region, outfitters are wary of travelling to the park on a falling tide, as this can result in the boat becoming grounded. You can also check the timing of tides on your preferred day of travel through the local tide tables at: www.waterlevels.gc.ca (select Index of Sites then Aulatsivik Point for the southern entrance to Akshayuk Pass or Qikiqtarjuaq for the northern entrance to the pass).

During ice break up, you cannot travel to the park by boat or snowmobile. If your plans include travel to the park around these times, please phone the park office to check ice conditions. Or, check the Environment Canada sea ice website at <http://ice-glaces.ec.gc.ca> (go to East Arctic then Davis Strait for the Auyuittuq National Park area).

Emergency Shelters

There are 8 emergency shelters (with outhouses) located along the Akshayuk Pass. We maintain the shelters, for your safety, in case of extreme weather or polar bear threats, and they are to be used only in an emergency.

The emergency shelters are never locked and are all equipped with a single side band 2-way radio that is monitored **during regular business hours** by our staff. A general radio broadcast is given twice a day from the park office at 8:45am and 4:45pm. Please use the radios at this time to check for current weather, trail conditions, polar bear updates or to contact an outfitter. **Use the radios at any time in case of an emergency.**

If an emergency requires you to use a shelter, please keep the emergency shelters tidy and bar the door when you leave. Food and trash are animal attractants and odours will linger.

Emergency Shelter Regulations

- Do not sleep in the shelters
- Do not cook in the shelters
- Do not store food, fuel or equipment
- Do not leave garbage behind



Polar Bears and Other Wildlife

Polar bears may be encountered at any time of the year and in any area of the park, including glaciers.

The more people in your party, the less likely you will encounter a bear. In Auyuittuq National Park, polar bears are most active in and along the coast of Davis Strait. Be particularly cautious in March/April when females with cubs are emerging from their dens and August to November when the sea ice is gone and bears are forced ashore. When in North Pangnirtung Fiord we recommend travelling 3-4 hours inland before camping, if possible.

For more information, please speak with our parks staff, read the Safety in Polar Bear Country pamphlet carefully and watch the Polar Bears: A Guide to Safety DVD at the park office or distributed at www.distributionaccess.com.

If you are nervous about bears, or uncertain of your ability to deal with them, consider joining a guided group. Guides are knowledgeable and experienced at travelling in bear country. When hiring a guide, ask about their experience, how they will avoid encountering polar bears and their plans of action should you encounter a bear.

Report polar bear encounters

Report sightings, tracks and signs to Parks Canada staff as soon as possible by radio or satellite phone.

Foxes and wolves can carry rabies. Do not allow them to approach you. Be especially suspicious if wildlife appears 'friendly' or 'tame'.

Birds and other wildlife are inquisitive and opportunistic. They will scavenge food left out and caches that are not securely stashed. Make sure food and garbage is securely stored.

As a general rule keep a safe distance from all wildlife and remember that it is illegal to touch, feed or entice wildlife with food items in a National Park.



Photo: Paula Hughson

Search and Rescue

Auyuittuq is one of the most remote parks in North America, and rescue services and facilities are very limited. Our public safety staff are trained in swift water rescue, first aid, patient stabilization and evacuation in non-technical terrain. Park search and rescue operations may be delayed by poor weather conditions, geography, aircraft or staff availability. For high-angle technical evacuations, assistance from outside of Nunavut is required.

TO HELP US AND YOURSELF, PLEASE:

- Be self-reliant and responsible for your own safety;
- Have the required equipment, knowledge, skills and physical fitness;
- Consider the public safety information and advice provided by Parks Canada;
- Seek out additional advice from our staff if you are uncertain about what you may encounter;
- Follow the public safety registration and de-registration program;
- Be prepared for emergencies (medical, wildlife or weather related).

When will a search be initiated?

A search and rescue response will be initiated when a distress signal is reported or when a group has failed to de-register and an initial investigation suggests a group is overdue. In the case of an overdue group, a physical search may not occur until at least 48 hours after the de-registration date has passed.

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY
CALL THE EMERGENCY DISPATCH LINE
(780) 852 3100
THIS NUMBER IS MONITORED 24 HOURS A DAY**

Do not forget to de-register!

Visitors who fail to de-register place an unnecessary burden on our limited search and rescue capabilities. You can place rescue staff in danger and make the rescue team unavailable for a real emergency. Please remember to visit or call our Parks Canada office upon your safe return from the park.



Photo: Eena Kooneeliusie

Minimizing Risk

Experience Level

Your group should have advanced skills in wilderness first aid and be prepared to handle any medical, wildlife or weather related emergency. If someone in your group is uncertain about their skill level, consider travelling with an experienced guide. Contact information can be found in this package.

Communications

Please be aware that all of these recommended modes of communication can be unreliable and at times you will be unable to make contact with anyone. If you are having difficulty receiving a signal it may be possible to get to higher ground to improve signal strength. This can be very time consuming and in some cases dangerous, please use caution. As always with technology, be aware of the weaknesses of your system.

Satellite phones are the preferred means of making contact. Your phone can put you in touch with emergency assistance 24 hours a day. We recommend obtaining a satellite phone prior to your trip.

The Iridium system currently provides the most reliable coverage over Auyuittuq but other options are available. Make sure to bring extra batteries and keep your device dry. Portable solar chargers for batteries are also recommended. Be sure to write down emergency phone numbers and program them into the phone.

Please Note: that there are areas of the park, especially in the Owl River valley, where satellite phone coverage is unreliable.

SPOT can be used to allow family and friends to track your progress on your trip as well as initiate a distress signal. Emergency signals are received by the Canadian Forces and they will initiate a rescue if one is received. This signal is non-reversible and is to be used in a life-threatening situation only. In some areas of the park, at some times, signal reception may be limited and your signals may not be sent as expected. Please advise your family and friends of this to remove any undue concern about your progress should they not receive an OK. During your registration we will collect information about your unit in the event that there is a need to check the activity from it.

Emergency radios are provided in all emergency shelters and staff cabins. Instructions for use, communication schedules and call signs are provided at these locations. Radios are monitored during regular office hours. You will be provided with details during your orientation and registration session.

Personal Locator Beacons (PLB) can also be carried into remote areas. When activated, they send a distress signal to the Canadian Forces in Trenton, Ontario who will initiate a rescue from there. Once activated, the signal is non-reversible; these are to be used in a life-threatening situation only. Make sure your PLB is properly registered by calling the Canadian Personal Emergency Beacon Registry in Ottawa at (613) 992-0079 or online at www.canadianbeaconregistry.forces.gc.ca/. Only PLB's that transmit a distress signal at 406 MHz are permitted in Canada.

Travelling with Dangerous Goods

In order to transport used stoves and fuel bottles, Transport Canada has several regulations about how to do so. For details about how to treat your gear in order to transport it on a plane please go to the following link: www.tc.gc.ca/civilaviation/commerce/dangerousgoods/news/notices/menu.htm. If you have any questions about these regulations please contact the inspector from your region. A list of contacts can be found at: www.tc.gc.ca/civilaviation/commerce/dangerousgoods/contact.htm

We ONLY recommend bringing new, unused stoves and new, empty fuel canisters with you to avoid difficulties when traveling. Please keep these items in their original packaging and bring all receipts with you. You will likely also need to leave these items in the communities on your return trip home.

Bear deterrents and many noisemaking devices used to scare bears are strictly prohibited from travel on airplanes.

To make your travel easier, we recommend buying your stove fuel in the community where you begin your trip and leave any unused fuel behind. White gas is readily available in the communities. Some compressed tanks may be available – contact stores directly for more information. Outfitters in both communities often accept leftover white gas. Contact outfitters directly. You can also check with local outfitters or stores to see if bear deterrents are available for purchase locally. Commercial deterrents are limited in the north; you will need to check for availability with local outfitters or stores prior to your trip.

Environmental Conservation Practices

- Choose routes on durable terrain.
- When traveling across steep terrain use rock outcrops or snow.
- Select campsites in durable locations where signs of your occupation will be minimal, especially for base camps or if you are traveling in a large group.
- Minimize the use of soaps and, when necessary, use biodegradable soap.
- Dish and excess cooking water should be poured into a shallow sump hole away from campsite and 50 meters away from water sources.
- Pack out everything that you packed in. Do not leave garbage in the outhouses. This includes your toilet paper!
- Do not build cairns (rock pile or Inuksuk), markers, or leave messages in the dirt.
- If you cannot use an outhouse, do not cover human waste as it will degrade quicker in the sun and air. Please use an area away from main routes and water sources.



Fees

Entry fees are charged at most national parks. Most of the money raised through admission fees remains in the particular park where it is collected. This means that every time you visit a park you are investing in its future – and in a legacy for future generations.

An annual northern park backcountry excursion fee of \$147.20 (Cdn) per person (used for multi-day trips) will be applied at the time of registration. Daily fees of \$24.50 (Cdn) per person per day are also available. *(These prices include all applicable taxes.)*

The Annual Northern Backcountry Excursion Pass is valid in any national park/reserve in Nunavut, the Northwest Territories and Yukon, except for Kluane and Wood Buffalo National Parks.

The Parks Canada Discovery Passes covering Park Entry Fees are not valid in the National Parks in Nunavut.

Park Regulations

The Canada National Park Act and Regulations, as well as other federal legislation, are in place to preserve and protect our natural and cultural resources. The following is a guide to ensure you have a safe and memorable wilderness experience while visiting Auyuittuq National Park.

- You must register your trip with the park office in Pangnirtung and de-register upon its completion.
- All garbage must be packed out.
- No person shall be in possession of a firearm in the park.
- Parks Canada may issue a permit to those wishing to transport a firearm through a national park for use outside the park as part of a larger expedition. Please contact the park office and allow at least two months to process your application.
- Campfires are not permitted in the park.
- Pets must be kept on leashes at all times.
- No person shall remove, deface, damage or destroy any flora or natural objects in the park.
- No person shall wilfully remove, deface, damage or destroy any prehistoric or historic artefacts or structures in the park.
- No person shall hunt, disturb, hold in captivity or destroy any wildlife within the park.
- No person shall disturb or destroy a nest, lair or den in the park.
- No person shall touch or feed wildlife in the park.
- Anglers require a National Park Permit to fish in the park.
- Access to Maktak and Coronation Fjords is restricted to visitors from approximately Sept. 1 to freeze-up.



Ayuittuq. *Real. Inspiring.*